

...Tornado confirmed south of Richfield in Stanly County North Carolina...

Location...south of Richfield in Stanly County North Carolina

Date...September 5, 2011

Estimated time...853 PM to 856 PM

Maximum EF-scale rating...EF-0

Estimated maximum wind speed...80 mph

Maximum path width...100 yards

Path length...0.87 miles

Beginning lat/lon...35.42N / 80.29W

Ending lat/lon...35.44N / 80.29W

\* Fatalities...0

\* Injuries...0

\* The information in this statement is preliminary and subject to change pending final review of the event(s) and publication in NWS Storm Data.

...Summary...

The National Weather Service in Raleigh, NC has confirmed a tornado south of Richfield in Stanly County North Carolina on September 5, 2011.

The National Weather Service in Raleigh has confirmed that an EF-0 tornado touched down south of the Richfield area in Stanly County. Touchdown occurred immediately south of Rogers Road where a swath of trees and power lines 100 yards across were located. The tornado continued northward tearing the roof off of four wooden outbuildings with metal sheet roofing. Two of the buildings were completely destroyed, while the other two were intact despite considerable roof damage. Debris from these buildings were scattered for 200-300 yards in a circular pattern. Debris also included half inch thick metal fencing that had been twisted and displaced one hundred yards. Many trees were snapped off near their bases. Beyond the outbuildings of the farm, the tornado continued northward, lifting north of Sunnybrook road. The path length of the initial touchdown was 0.87 miles and was 100 yards in width.

Further to the north, the same cell did damage to several trees at a residence along NC Highway 49. There does appear to be a rotational component to the tree damage surveyed at this location as well. This damage would still be classified as EF-0 damage with a path length of 300 yards and a width of 50 yards. Maximum wind speeds at this location were estimated to be near 65 mph. Touchdown occurred south of Highway 49 and continued across the road and lifted at the residence at 22221 Highway 49 just north of the road. Touchdown for the second path would be at 35.47, -80.29 and lifting at 35.48, -80.29. The second touchdown estimated from radar would be at 8:57pm until 8:58pm. No structural damage was found at this location.

Thanks to Stanly County Emergency Management for their assistance with this survey.

For reference the Enhanced Fujita scale classifies tornadoes into the following categories:

- EF-0...wind speeds 65 to 85 mph.
- EF-1...wind speeds 86 to 110 mph.
- EF-2...wind speeds 111 to 135 mph.
- EF-3...wind speeds 136 to 165 mph.
- EF-4...wind speeds 166 to 200 mph.
- EF-5...wind speeds greater than 200 mph.

Ellis/KRR

